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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In the Specification:

The phrase: -- This is a 371 national stage entry of PCT/FR05/50061 filed on 02/01/2005. -- has been inserted below the title.

The Abstract has been replaced as follows:

-- An assembly for positioning sleeves on products such as bottles. The products are conveyed in the upright position one after the other along a conveyor line and the sleeves are removed from a sleeve-feed system by transfer members above the product. The assembly comprises a single sleeve-feed system and two pairs of alternately-operating transfer members which are installed on either side of the product conveyor line. Each transfer member is supported by a carriage to travel the length of an active path along the side of the product at the sleeve-application position in order to remove a sleeve and place the sleeve on the product, in an alternating manner with the other transfer member from the pair, while the carriage of the other transfer member from the second pair moves the other transfer member from the second pair along a return path at a distance from the active path. --

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to disclose and or teach an installation for fitting sleeves on products that comprises, among other things, two pairs of transfer elements, each comprising two pairs of transfer elements mounted on either side of the conveyor line of products and operating in alternation, each transfer element being supported by a carriage of a conveyor means conveying the transfer elements in

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order to effect a straight active travel path along the side of the product at the sleeve fitting station, in alternation with the transfer element of the other pair, in order to pick up a sleeve and fit it on the product whilst the conveyor means of the transfer element of the other pair displaces the latter on a return path, separate from the active travel path, wherein the carriage is guided on a fixed track and bears the transfer element by means of an arm pivoting between a position in which it effects its active travel path and its return path by a control track accommodating a pulley borne by the transfer element, this track being displaced between an advanced position and a retracted position, which advanced position corresponds to the active travel path of the transfer element as the carriage descends along the side of the product to be fitted with a sleeve, whilst the retracted position corresponds to the return path of the transfer element as the carriage ascends towards the start of the next active travel path of the transfer element.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.

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6. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

7. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

October 12, 2009

/Louis K. Huynh/
Primary Examiner
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